

Boswell Regional Center's

VOLUME VIII

BULLETIN

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Raymond Johnson

With the new year came great changes here at Boswell.

Construction of the four new buildings that will take the place of the Jaquith ICF/MR building is well on its way. There are a few pictures on Page 5 that show some of the progress that's taking place. The project is scheduled to be completed by January 2011.

We expect even more progress with the renovation of the bank building across the street from campus, the completion of the water treatment plan, the remodeling of

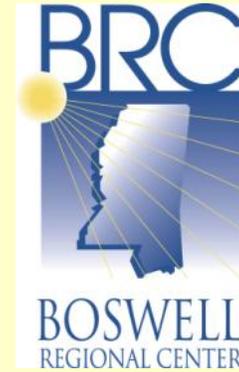
various buildings on campus to be used as offices, the renovation of the old Fred's store in Magee and the rebuilding of Goodwater Meadows Group Home, which was destroyed by last year's tornado.

This year has been a tight budget year for all state agencies. In spite of hard economic times, we at Boswell are committed to maintaining the quality of care and the same type of programming we currently have for our individuals. We remain dedicated, always putting the individuals first in all that we do each day.

It's hard to believe, but in 2011 we'll have something special to celebrate—35 years of service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We appreciate all the support we've received over the years from our friends, family members and the community. We have been most fortunate.

Mission Statement

Boswell Regional Center provides Mississippians with intellectual and other developmental disabilities a comprehensive array of service options promoting independence and an optimal quality of life. Through an active partnership of individual, family, staff and community, these service options are designed to enhance each individual's quality of life through teaching skills which aid in reaching personal potential.



BRC BULLETIN

The Boswell Bulletin is a publication of Boswell Regional Center. The Bulletin is published free of charge to inform the public and interested family members and individuals about Boswell Regional Center activities, policies and progress.

This publication also serves to provide information to those interested in intellectual disabilities and the individuals served at BRC.

Raymond Johnson, Director

Kathy Lee, Editor

Kathy Dampeer-Pittman, Assistant

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and each facility to recruit, employ, and promote qualified employees and applicants without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability. The Department of Mental Health/Bureau of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. It is the sole purpose of this act to provide a clear mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

On the cover...

One of Boswell's landmarks, the old water tower located next to Jaquith ICF/MR building was torn down March 26th.

One of the first steps was to cut away the top of the structure which is pictured here. The job was started early in the morning and by lunch the tower was completely gone.

IDD Awareness Month celebrated

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month kicked off in March with Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde signing a proclamation which designated March 1st as IDD Awareness Day in the City of Magee. Each year, the month of March is designated as IDD Awareness Month.

The proclamation recognized Boswell's contribution to Magee, called for support for those with IDD and support for those who dedicate their lives to serving those with IDD.

Also, the Mayor of Brookhaven, Les Bumgarner, signed a proclamation naming Thursday, March 4th as IDD Awareness Day in Brookhaven, recognizing the importance of both Boswell and her sister facility, Mississippi Adolescent Center (MAC). Boswell has two group homes and a Work Activity Center in Brookhaven.

Boswell joined a number of facilities and private



Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde signed an IDD Awareness Day proclamation. He is pictured with Boswell Director Raymond Johnson, at right.

organizations by setting up a display at the Day at the Capitol for IDD Awareness held on March 3rd and reflecting this year's theme of "Incl(us)ion."

Recent visitors to BRC campus

Junior and Senior High students from the Simpson County Vocational-Technical Center Allied Health class visited Boswell in March in conjunction with IDD Month.

Students toured the Work Activity Center as well as received information regarding suicide prevention. Brochures on the subject were distributed and made possible through the Department of Mental Health's "Shatter the Silence" campaign which encourages young people to tell someone if a friend or loved one threatens suicide. Any threat of suicide should be taken seriously.

Students are under the instruction of Brenda Duran.



Co-Lin students, individuals learn together

Each year individuals from the Brookhaven Group Homes load up and take a trip to Copiah-Lincoln Community College to learn tips on setting tables, dining properly and clearing tables.

The activity gives both the Co-Lin students and the individuals practice. Individuals work to set tables in all different phases, from folding napkins to topping each table off with decorations while students lend a hand.

In the meantime, other students are in the kitchen cooking up wonderful dishes that the individuals get to enjoy after the tables are ready and waiting.

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A student and an individual work together to tackle decorations at one of the tables at Co-Lin. Both students and individuals enjoyed the annual experience.

Congratulations to graduates of CPM Program

Two Boswell Regional Center employees graduated from the Certified Public Manager's program. Immediate supervisors and other BRC staff were on hand to congratulate them.

CPM is a training program built on the philosophy that the study of management can impact certain skills, attitudes, and behaviors which characterize successful management and is offered by the State Personnel Board.



Pictured are, front row, front left: Lynn Fitch, MS State Personal Board Executive Director; Raymond Johnson, Boswell Facility Director; Rosalynn Forrest (CPM), Director of the Early Intervention Program; Janet Gibson (CPM), Director of Education; Dr. Larry Gibson, staff physician; Lisa Bryant, Director of Support Services; and Gloria Johnson, Assistant Director, BRC.

New buildings beginning to take shape

At right is the front view of one of the new buildings that will be replacing the Jaquith Building. The building is located west of Jaquith and faces north. The picture was taken from a second structure being built. These are located near Boswell's front entrance. The other two buildings will be located near the Lake area.



At left is a view of the inside of one of the buildings from the front entrance. There are three wings in each building. The buildings are designed with the same number of offices, service areas, and rooms for the individuals.

At right is a view from the inside of the day room looking out. Each building will have a day room with windows all around so individuals can enjoy the view. All four buildings will have a view of some of the beautiful landscape on Boswell's campus.





Trophy Winners

Unit 1 was awarded both the quarterly oral hygiene trophy for the 4th quarter of 2009 and the most improved overall trophy for 2009. Unit 1 staff members are pictured at left.

Center Donates to Relay

Boswell held a Silent Auction in February with all proceeds going toward Simpson County's Relay for Life. Pictured at right are BRC employee Beth Luper, who serves as co-chairman of the Simpson County Relay for Life campaign and Debra Cockrell, Development Representative, Mid South Division Inc., American Cancer Society.



Boswell recognizes recent retirees



Terry Bogan retired from BRC in January and was honored with a reception following the Director's Meeting in February. Angie Freeman retired in February and was honored in March. Facility Director Raymond Johnson is pictured congratulating them both.

February snow



*You can't have snow
without building a snowman or two!*



*A special thank you to all the dedicated
employees who despite inclement weather
reported for work.*



Continued from Page 4

After completing the meal, the students and individuals clear the tables (in the correct order with some encouragement from Ms. Hoff) and tidy everything up.

The students are always more than willing to participate in helping the individuals and Food Production and Management Technology Instructor, Jody Hoff takes a lot of time to explain each step of the process making sure that students and individuals alike understand the correct way to set a table.

This activity has been an annual event each year that is a favorite of the residents of Brookhaven group homes. It's a shared learning experience for both the students and for the visiting individuals.

Ms. Hoff has been very supportive of the activity involving these individuals from the Brookhaven Group Homes and says she looks forward to the individuals coming each year.

It's a wonderful event for all involved.

Boswell Regional Center



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